(b) if so, the reaction of the labour unions thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) A Special Tripartite Committee constituted by the Ministry of Labour has addressed itself to the questions of industrial sickness, the need for modernisation of the industry and labour adjustments, in the context of the country's industrial development. The labour side of the Committee recognises that modernisation is a continuous process and is essential for the development of the economy. At the same time in the name of modernisation the workers should not be thrown out of employment. They agree that the labour should be retrained, their technical skills upgraded and they should be suitably redeployed. There must, however, be prior consultation with the unions at the unit level. It is further agreed that while the Special Tripartite Committee and the Industrial Committees would formulate general principles of rehabilitation and also examine individual cases, settlement reached at the unit level would provide the ideal solution.

Unemployed registered with Employment Exchanges

2446. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to stae:

(a) the number of graduates, PH. Ds, Engineers and doctors unemployed registered in the live register of Employment Exchanges State-wise in the country;

(b) since when they are on the live register; and

(c) how Government will solve this unemployment problem?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Number of Graduate, Engineers and Doctors on the live register of employment exchanges, not all of whom are necessarily unemployed, in the country as on 30-6-1990 (latest available) is annexed. [*See* Appendix CLXII Annexure No. 55]. No separate information on PH.Ds is compiled.

(b) Information on the number of job-seekers by length of stay on the live register of employment exchanges except SCs/STs is not maintained.

(c) Besides the employment generation taking place in the normal development process, additional employment is also generated through the special employment programmes. Employment is also a central objective of the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Children pledged for bonded labour

2447. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that million children in the country are pledged into bonded labour as security for money borrowed by their families; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to get them released?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The Government are aware of child bonded labour in certain pockets of the country. Since the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976 makes no distinction between 'child and 'adult' bonded labour, statistics on children kept as bonded labour on account of debts incrred by their families is not kept. However, wherever existence of child bonded labour has come to the notice of the Governmnt, the resnective State Governments, who are the appropriate authority, are urged to take immediae action to obtain the release of such children from boundages and restore them to their parents.